



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: October 12, 2007
Comment Deadline: November 14, 2007
Corps Action ID #: SAW-2007-03219

The Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application from the North Carolina Center for Automotive Research seeking Department of the Army (DA) authorization to impact 2.81 acres of wetlands and 140 linear feet of perennial stream channel associated with development of a new automotive research center, northeast of Roanoke Rapids, in Northampton County, North Carolina.

Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands

Applicant: NC Center for Automotive Research
Mr. Gary Brown
Post Office Box 685
Jackson, NC 27845

AGENT: Land Management Group, Inc
Ms. Kim Williams
Post Office Box 2522
Wilmington, NC 28402

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this application and decide whether to issue, conditionally issue, or deny the proposed work pursuant to applicable procedures Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Location

The 619 acre project site is located on the south side of Blyth Road, and the north side of Hwy 46, east of I-95, northwest of Garysburg, in Northampton County, North Carolina. The site coordinates are 36.4753°N, 77.5822°W.

Existing Site Conditions

The project site has been previously used for timber cultivation and contains a mixture of clear cut areas, young pine plantation, and mature pine/hardwood forests. Uplands on the site are comprised of recently clear cut areas with young loblolly pine, sweet gum, and red maple. The wetland finger located in the southeastern portion of the tract has been recently logged and contains sweet gum and red maple saplings, as well as herbaceous plants, such as wool grass. The stream systems that form the eastern, western and southern property boundaries have broad adjacent wetlands that support mature black gum, sweet gum and red maple.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

The applicant's project purpose is to develop a center for automotive research and development. The program and assets would be managed by a non-profit 501C3 organization with a Board of Directors. The Center would be designed to provide a number of resources at a reasonable cost to users in the general automotive, motorsports, and alternative fuel development sectors.

Project Description

The project will include a 3.7 mile ride and handling course, two vehicle dynamics areas, test laboratories, refueling station, an administration building, and associated infrastructure. The proposed project would impact 2.81 acres of wetlands, and 140 linear feet of perennial stream.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for impacts to 2.81 acres of wetlands associated with the project by means of preservation of 136.5 acres of wetlands, and by providing payment into the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NCEEP) sufficient for the restoration of 1.5 acres of riparian and 2 acres of non-riparian wetland within the Chowan River basin (HUC 03010204).

Other Required Authorizations

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). The receipt of the application and this public notice combined with appropriate application fee at the North Carolina Division of Water Quality central office in Raleigh will constitute initial receipt of an application for a 401 Water Quality Certification. A waiver will be

deemed to occur if the NCDWQ fails to act on this request for certification within sixty days of the date of the receipt of this notice in the NCDWQ Central Office. Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the NCDWQ Central Office, 401 Oversight and Express Permits Unit, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-2260. All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650 Attention: Ms Cyndi Karoly by November 7, 2007.

Essential Fish Habitat

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Corps' initial determination is that the proposed project will not adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the South Atlantic or Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Councils or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Cultural Resources

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area. However, two areas of concern were found in a phase II Archaeological Survey. It has not yet been determined if the areas are within the permit area for this project. However, the Corps will coordinate with the State Historical Preservation Office regarding potential effects. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be located within the project area and/or could be affected by the proposed work

Endangered Species

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. Based on available information, the Corps has determined pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, that the proposed project will have no effect on federally listed endangered or threatened species or their formally designated critical habitat.

Evaluation

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the

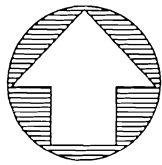
proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

Commenting Information

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials, including any consolidate State Viewpoint or written position of the Governor; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, November 14, 2007. Comments should be submitted to Mr. Thomas Brown, Raleigh Regulatory Field Office, 6508 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 120, Raleigh, North Carolina 27615.



NORTH



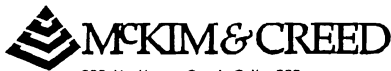
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Wetland Impact #1
38,114.67 SF

Wetland Impact #2
29,968.95 SF

Action Id: 200703219
Sheet 1 of 12

FIGURE 7. ON-SITE ALTERNATIVE; CULVERT (PREFERRED)



200 Mackenon Court, Suite 200
Cary, North Carolina 27511
Phone: (919)233-8091, Fax: (919)233-8031
AA0002687 EB0006891
www.mckimcreed.com

NCCAR

North Carolina Center for Automotive Research

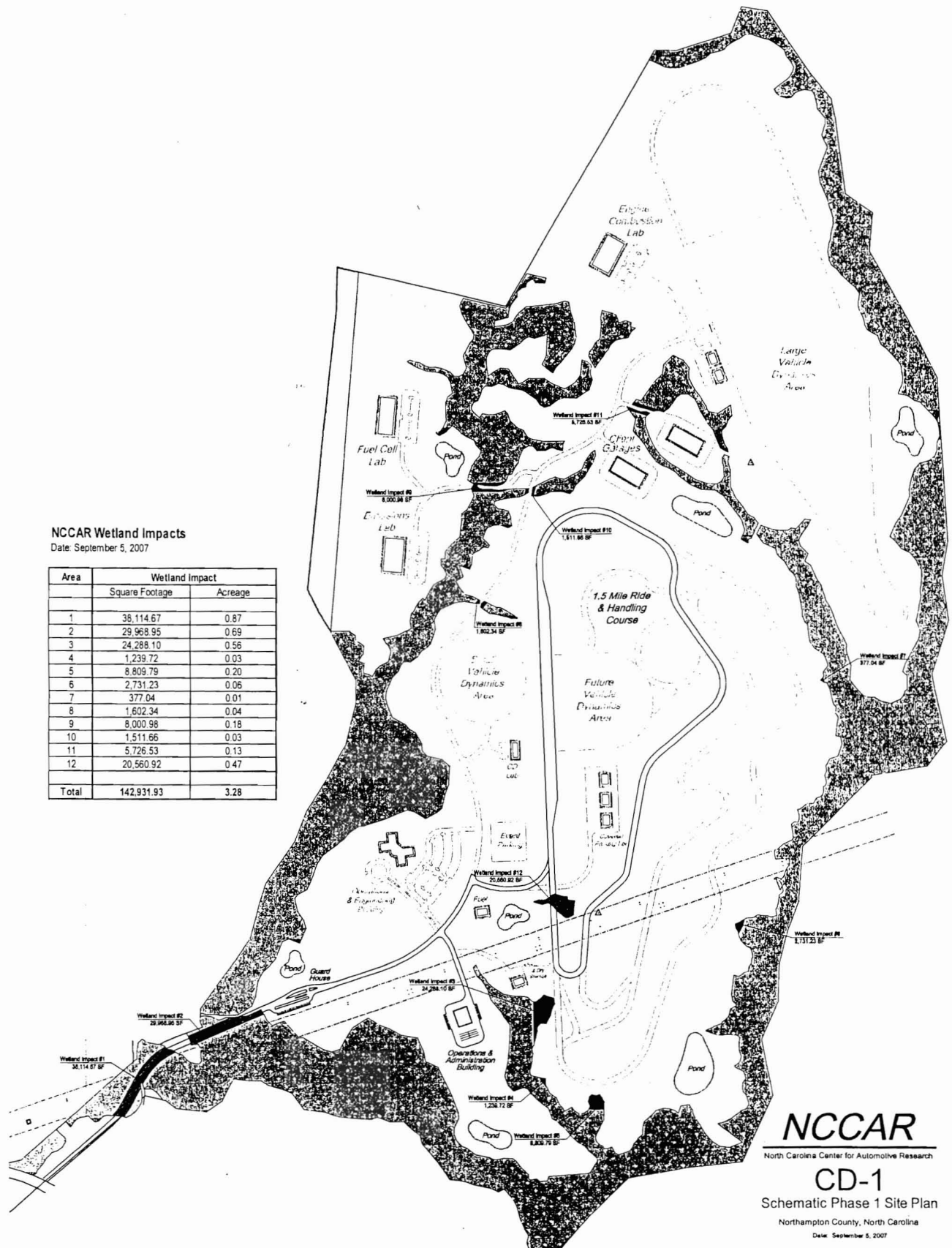
**RIDE & HANDLING COURSE
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**ENLARGEMENT FOR
WETLANDS IMPACTS**

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DRAWN: OCA	1"=200'	WET
DESIGNED: OCA	VERTICAL:	
CHECKED: CHS	NA	
PROJ. MGR: CHS		

STATUS: REVISION

Area	Wetland Impact	
	Square Footage	Acreage
1	38,114.67	0.87
2	29,968.95	0.69
3	24,288.10	0.56
4	1,239.72	0.03
5	8,809.79	0.20
6	2,731.23	0.06
7	377.04	0.01
8	1,602.34	0.04
9	8,000.98	0.18
10	1,511.66	0.03
11	5,726.53	0.13
12	20,560.92	0.47
Total	142,931.93	3.28



600' 0 600' 1200'

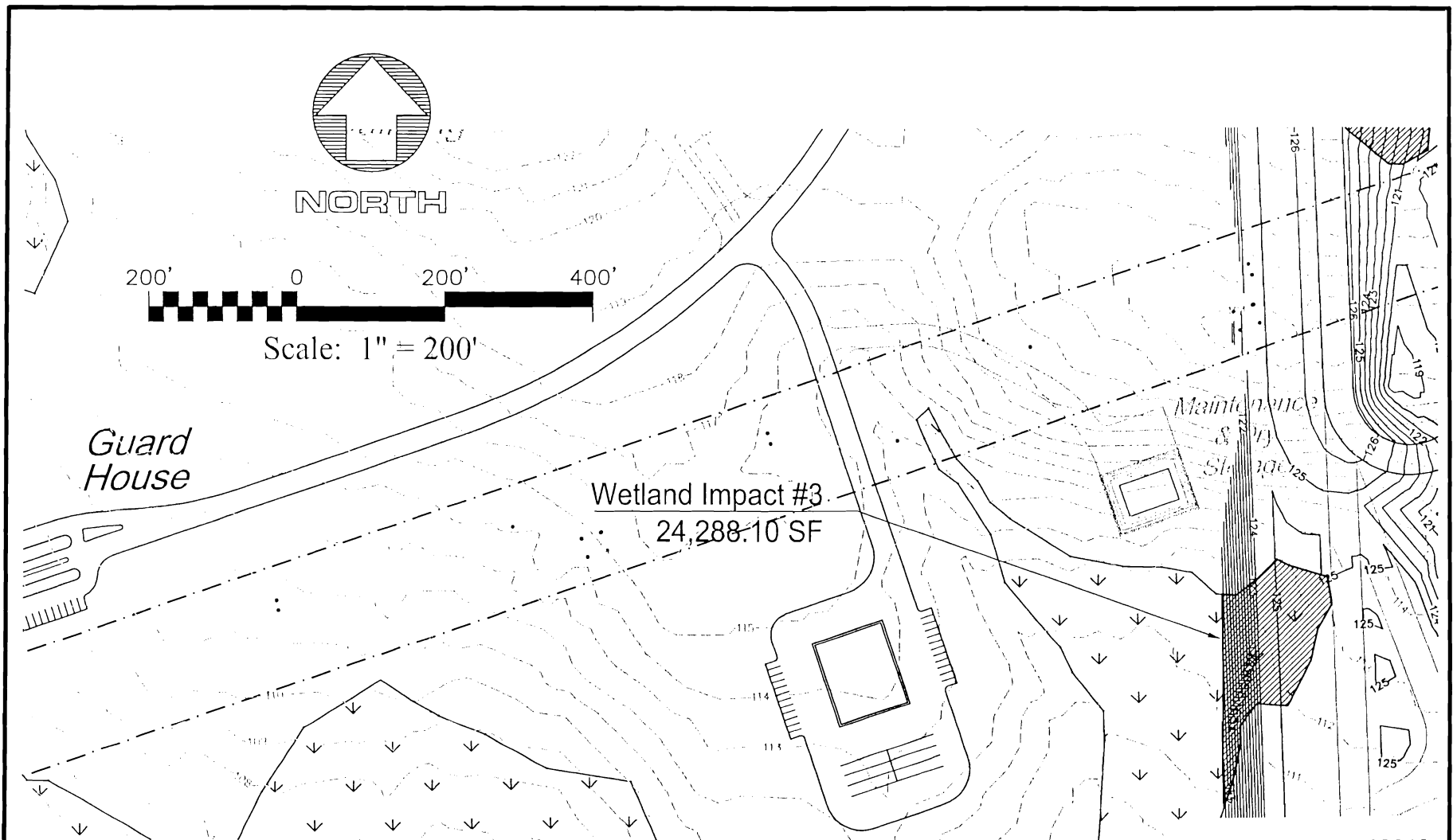
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Sheet 2 of 12



McKIM & CREED

FIGURE 10. ALTERNATIVE #4 (PREFERRED PROJECT)



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Sheet 3 of 12

FIGURE 11. WETLAND IMPACT #3



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AA0002667 EB0006891
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**ENLARGEMENT FOR
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DATE: 06.05.2007
MCE PROJ. # 4738-0001
DRAWN: OCA
DESIGNED: OCA
CHECKED: CHS
PROJ. MGR: CHS

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VERTICAL:
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STATUS:

REVISION

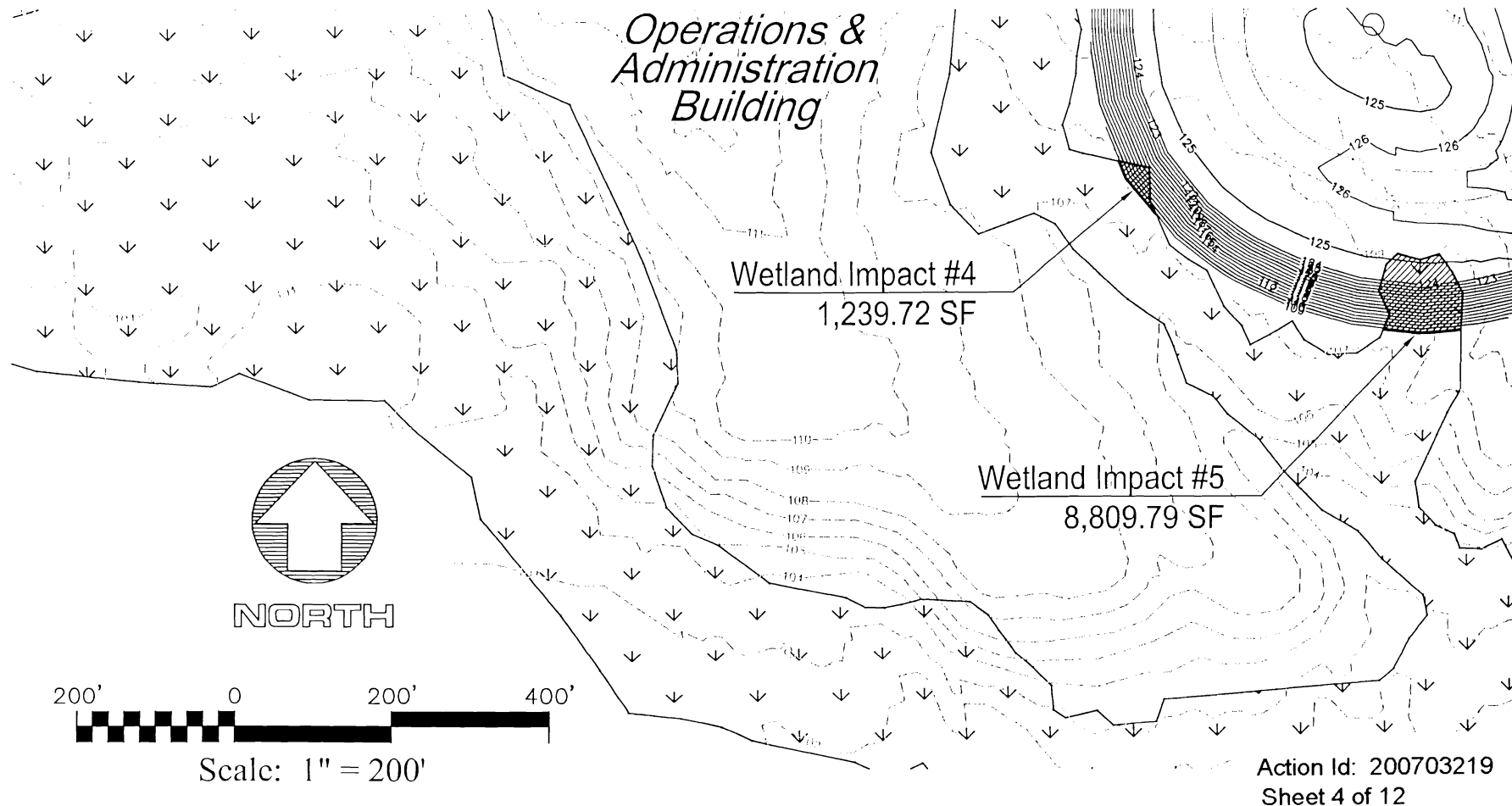


FIGURE 12. WETLAND IMPACTS #4 AND #5



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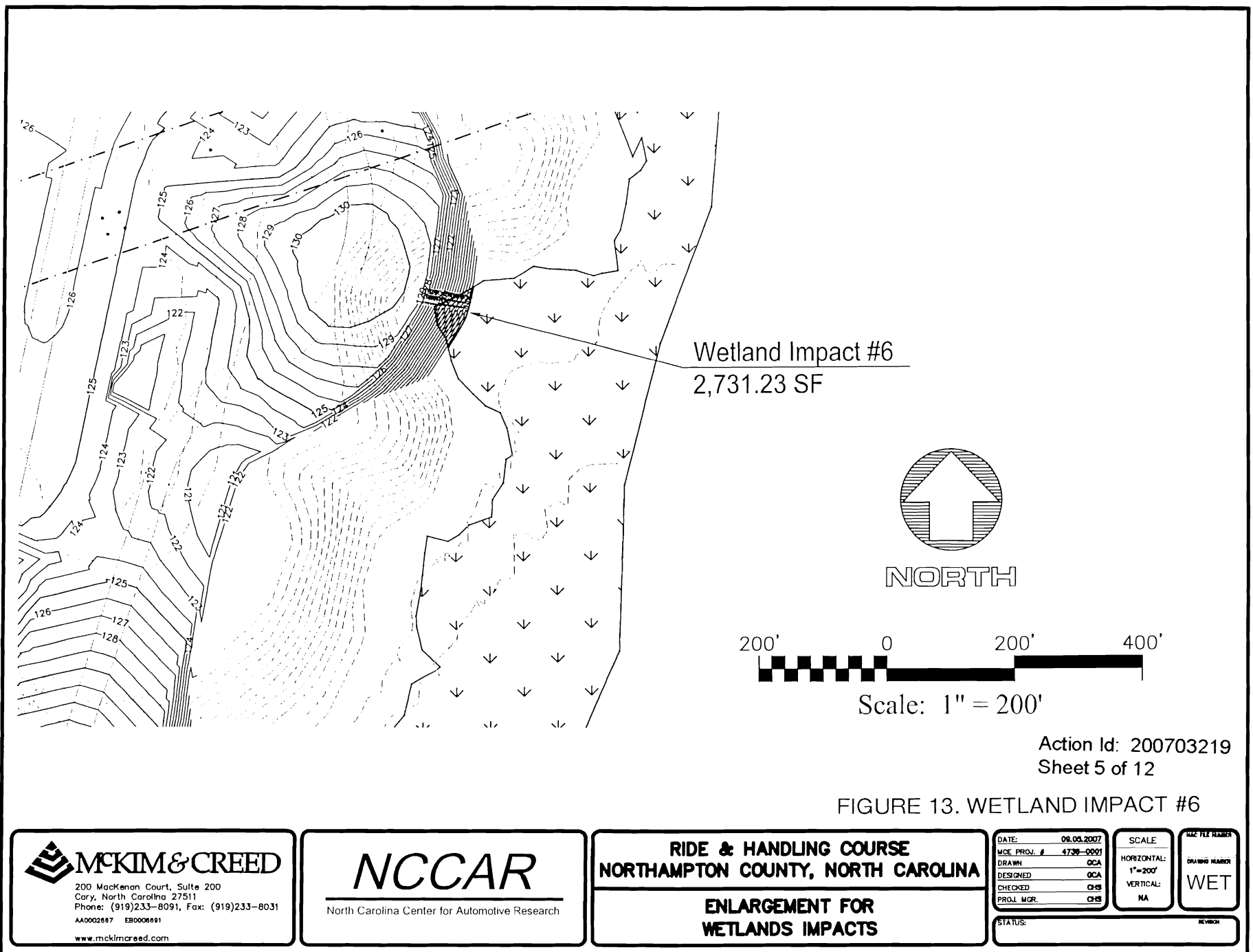
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WETLANDS IMPACTS**

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DESIGNED: OCA
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PROJ. MGR: CHS

SCALE
HORIZONTAL:
1"=200'
VERTICAL:
NA

DATE FILE NAMED
DRAWING NUMBER
WET

STATUS: REVISION:



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Cary, North Carolina 27511
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AA0002687 EB0006501
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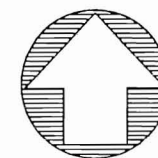
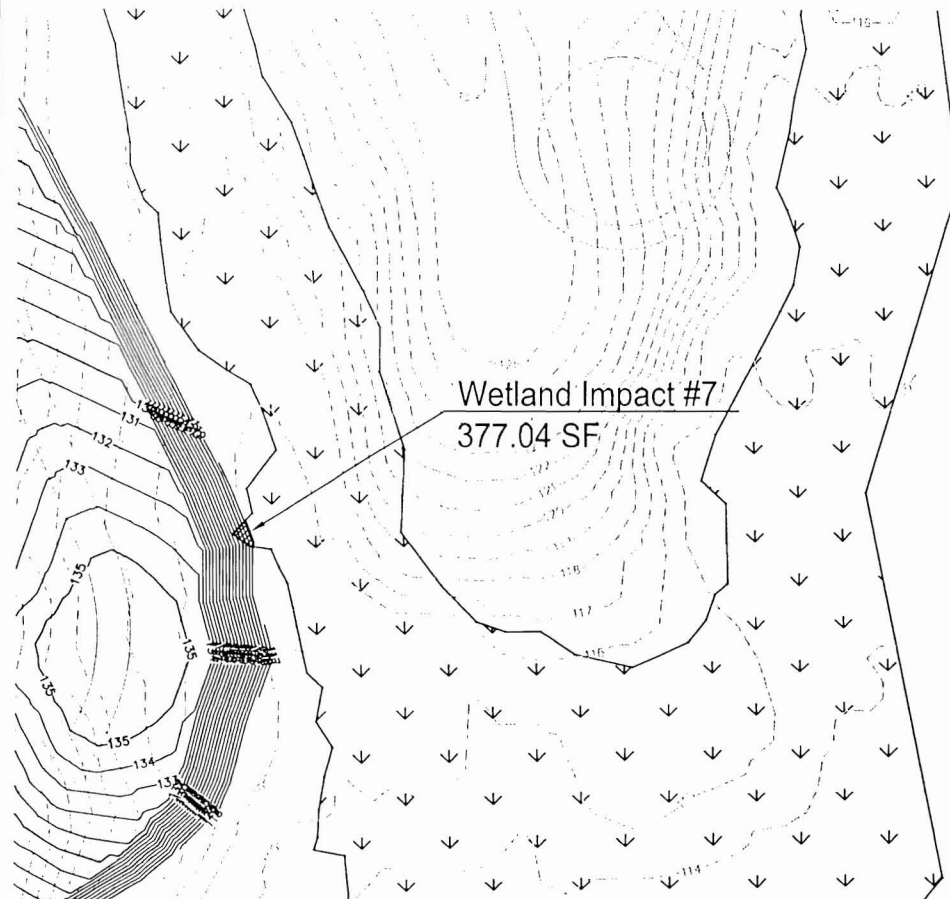
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DESIGNED: OCA		
CHECKED: CHS		
PROJ. MGR. CHS		
STATUS:		REVISION



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Scale: 1" = 200'

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FIGURE 14. WETLAND IMPACT #7



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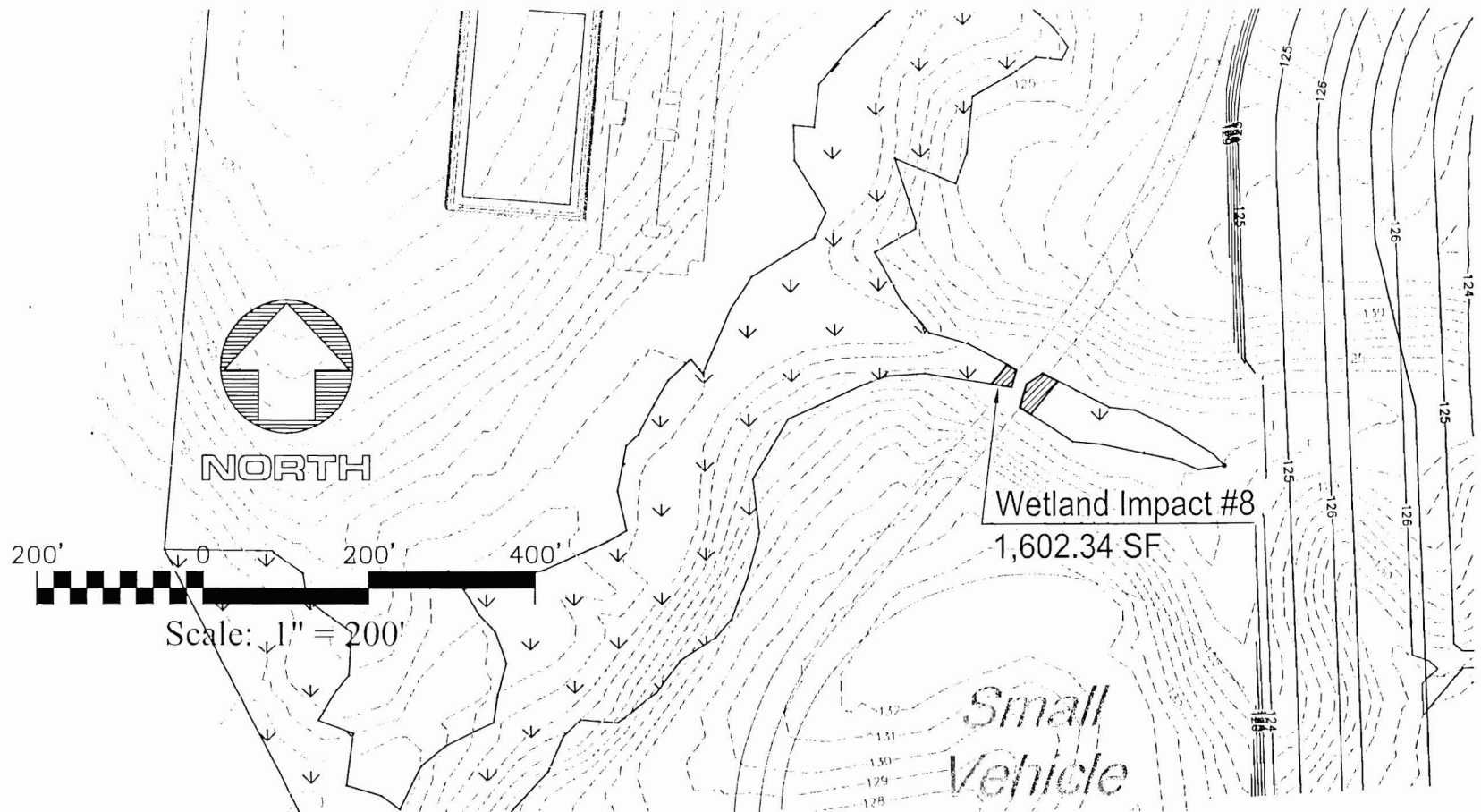
**ENLARGEMENT FOR
WETLANDS IMPACTS**

DATE: 08.05.2007
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PROJ. MGR. CHS

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1"=200'
VERTICAL:
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STATUS: REVISION



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FIGURE 15. WETLAND IMPACT #8

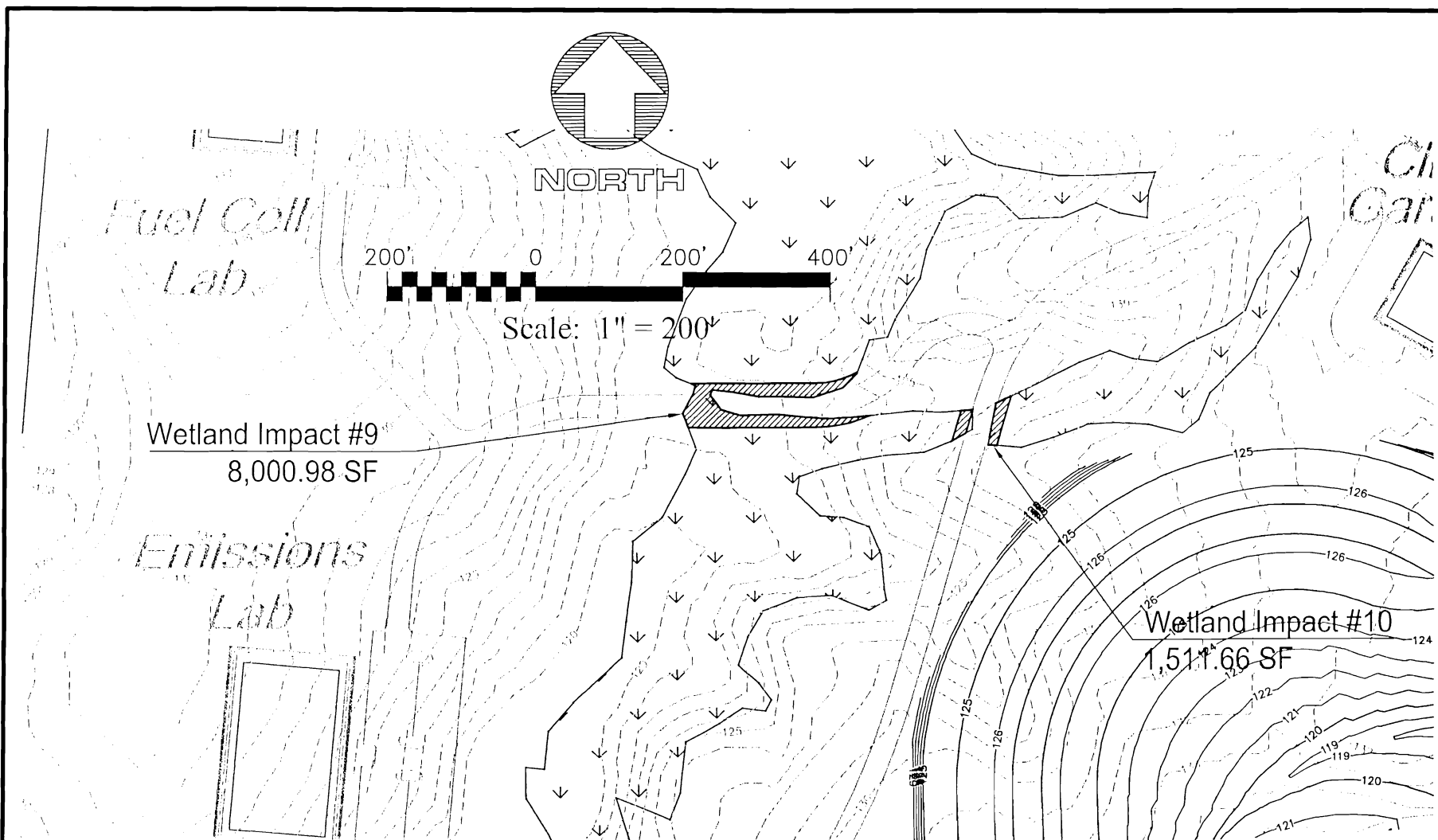
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WETLANDS IMPACTS**

DATE: 09.05.2007	SCALE: 1"=200'	MAC FILE NUMBER: WET
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Action Id: 200703219
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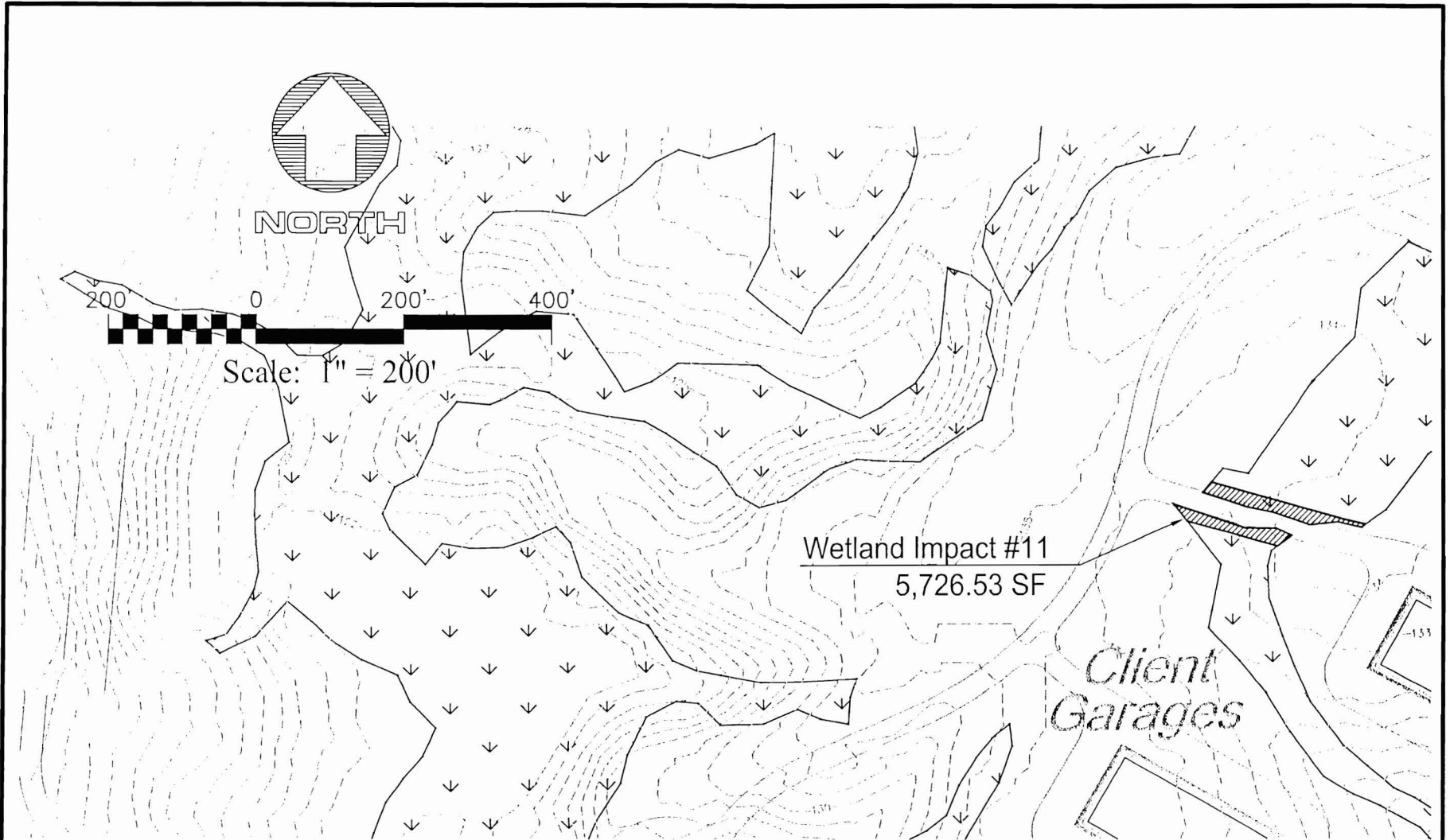
FIGURE 16. WETLAND IMPACTS #9 AND #10

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ENLARGEMENT FOR
WETLANDS IMPACTS

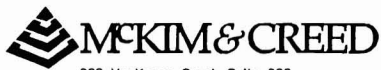
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DESIGNED: OCA		
CHECKED: CHS		
PROJ. MGR. CHS		
STATUS:		REVISION



Action Id: 200703219

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FIGURE 17. WETLAND IMPACT #11



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**ENLARGEMENT FOR
WETLANDS IMPACTS**

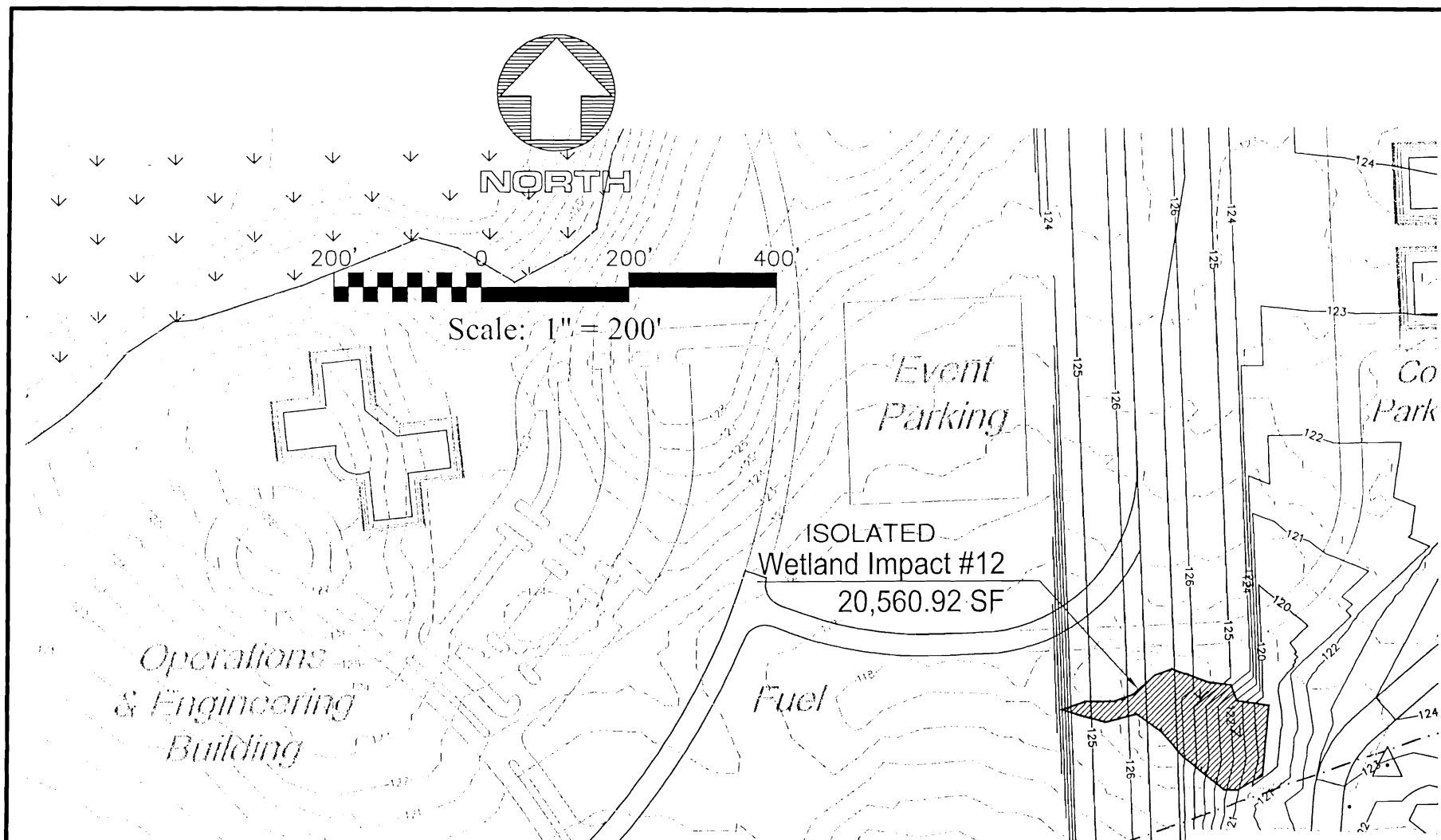
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PROJ. MGR. CHS

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1"=200'
VERTICAL:
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STATUS:

REVISION



Action Id: 200703219
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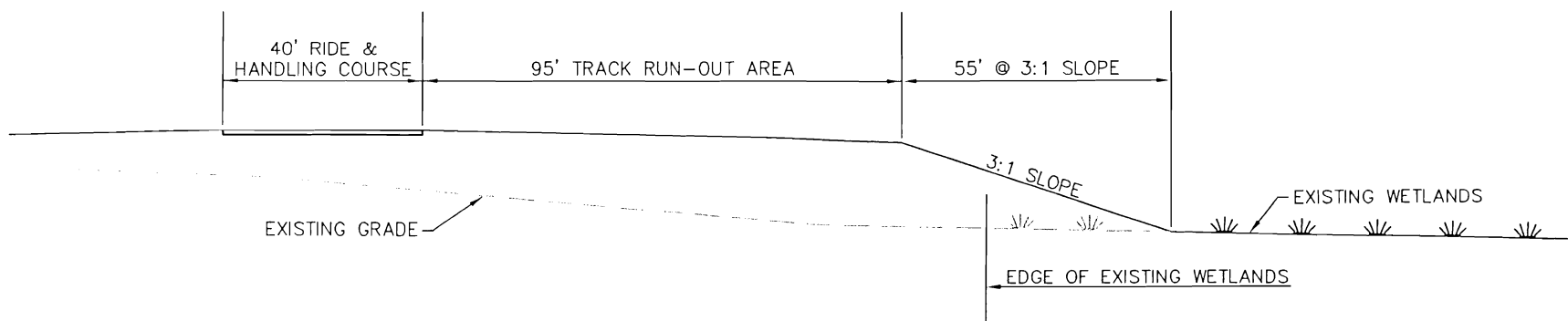
FIGURE 18. WETLAND IMPACT #12 (ISOLATED)

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DATE: 09.05.2007	SCALE	DATE FILE NAME
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DESIGNED: OCA		
CHECKED: CHS		
PROJ. MGR: CHS		
STATUS:		REVISION



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FIGURE 19. CROSS-SECTION OF FILL SLOPE

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**TRACK CROSS SECTION
FOR WETLANDS IMPACTS**

DATE: 09.05.2007
MCE PROJ. #
DRAWN: OCA
DESIGNED: OCA
CHECKED: CHS
PROJ. MGR: CHS

SCALE
HORIZONTAL: N/A
VERTICAL: NA

M&C FILE NUMBER
DRAWING NUMBER

STATUS:

REVISION

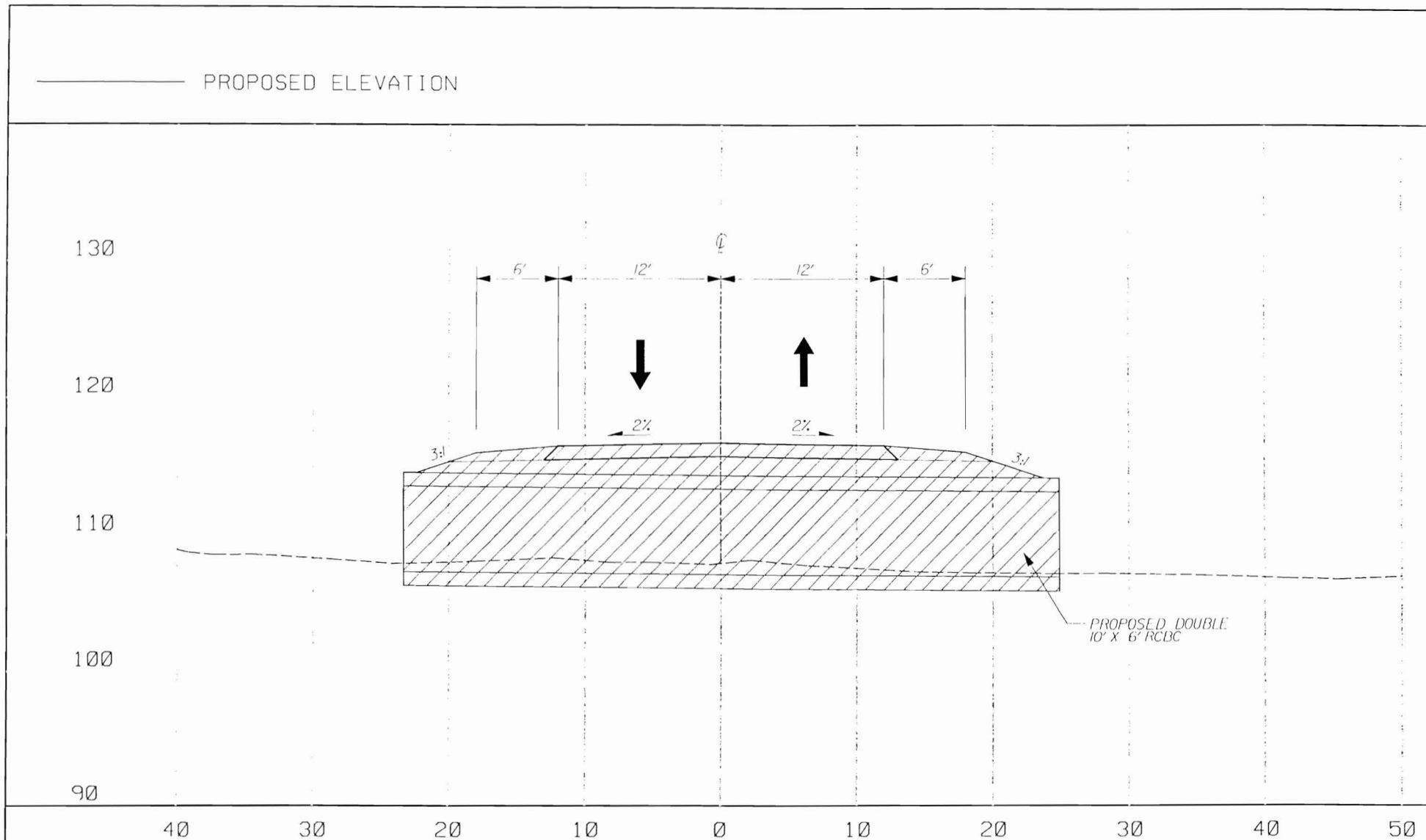


FIGURE 20. CROSS-SECTION OF ROADWAY

LEGEND

 WETLAND IMPACT



HNTB

HNTB NORTH CAROLINA, P.C.
343 E SIX FORKS ROAD, SUITE 200
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

NCCAR ENTRANCE ROAD
CROSS SECTION

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